THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The comments of various State Government/UTs have been sought in the matter and no time frame can be indicated at this stage regarding introduction of the Bill.

National Child Labour Project Scheme in A.P.

2668. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed some more districts in the State to be covered under the National Child Labour Project Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of proposals which have been given clearance alongwith the proposal which are under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government is implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in all 23 districts of Andhra Pradesh State.

(c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Difference in the wages to men and women

†2669. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been revealed from the survey of National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) conducted between January, 2004 to June, 2004 that difference and inequality are still existing between men and women with regard to wages;

(b) whether it is a fact that in rural India a male labourer earn an average of Rs. 56.53 as daily wages whereas a female labourer earns an average of Rs. 36.15 only as daily wages; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken by Government to bridge this gap?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Inequality in wages could be due to differences in the nature of work and the hours of work performed by men and women. Government is however, taking various measures under the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 to provide for equal remuneration to men and women for the same work or work of similar nature without any discrimination. The Act is being enforced by the respective State Government in the State Sphere and the Central Government in the Central Sphere. Government of India is regularly monitoring the implementation of the Act at the State and the Central levels.

FAO Report regarding workers

2670. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Report that agriculture workers who did not own or rent the land on which they work or the tools and equipment they use are often earning wages well below those earned by industrial workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that major component of Indian Economy is "agriculture or agriculture related operations";

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to ensure that agriculture workers are adequately paid for their labour; and

(d) whether any study has been made to find out specific reasons for agriculture workers generally living in dire conditions, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table on the House.

Productivity and competitiveness of work force in PSUs

2671. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any long-term plan to improve productivity and competitiveness of workforce in public sector manufacturing industries;